

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A weighing and flavoring system for producing bags containing flavored articles, said weighing and flavoring system comprising:
 - a measurer for measuring a quantity of articles;
 - a flavoring apparatus, disposed downstream of said measurer, for supplying a predetermined quantity of flavoring, thus flavoring the articles;
 - a check measurer, disposed downstream of said flavoring apparatus, for measuring a quantity of the flavored articles;
 - setting means for setting at least one threshold value based on the quantity of the articles as measured by said measurer; and
 - a sorting unit for sorting the flavored articles based on said at least one threshold value according to the quantity of the flavored articles as measured by said check measurer.
2. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said at least one threshold value includes a plurality of low limit values and a plurality of high limit values.
3. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, wherein:
 - said at least one threshold value includes a minimum low limit value, which indicates that no flavoring has been added by said flavoring apparatus.

4. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, further comprising

control means for controlling the predetermined quantity of the flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus based on the quantity of the flavored articles as measured by said check measurer and the quantity of the articles as measured by said measurer.

5. (Previously Presented) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 4, wherein:

a quantity of the flavoring actually added to the articles by said flavoring apparatus is calculated from the quantity of the flavored articles as measured by said check measurer and the quantity of articles as measured by said measurer, and

said control means controls the predetermined quantity of the flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus based on the quantity of the flavoring actually added to the articles.

6. (Previously Presented) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a packager for packaging the flavored articles into a package, said packager being disposed between said flavoring apparatus and said check measurer,

said check measurer measuring the quantity of the flavored articles taking into account a quantity of the package in which said packager packages the flavored articles.

7. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined quantity of flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus is determined based on the quantity of the articles as measured by said measurer.

8. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 1, wherein:
the predetermined quantity of flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus is
determined based on a type of the flavoring to be supplied.

9. (Currently Amended) A weighing and flavoring system for producing bags
containing flavored articles, said weighing and flavoring system comprising:

a measurer for measuring a quantity of articles;

a flavoring apparatus, disposed downstream of said measurer, for supplying a
predetermined quantity of flavoring, thus flavoring the articles;

a check measurer, disposed downstream of said flavoring apparatus, for measuring a
quantity of the flavored articles;

control means for controlling the predetermined quantity of the flavoring supplied by
said flavoring apparatus according to a value indicative of a difference between the
predetermined quantity of the flavoring and a quantity of the flavoring actually added to the
articles, the value being calculated using the quantity of the flavored articles as measured by
said check measurer and the quantity of the articles as measured by said measurer; and

a sorting unit for sorting the flavored articles into a plurality of ranks for non-defective
~~an acceptable product based on~~ by comparing the value indicative of the difference between
the predetermined quantity of the flavoring and the quantity of the flavoring actually added to
the articles with a plurality of threshold values calculated based on the quantity of articles as
measured by said measurer.

10. (Previously Presented) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 9, wherein:

the quantity of the flavoring actually added to the articles by said flavoring apparatus is calculated from the quantity of the flavored articles as measured by said check measurer and the quantity of articles as measured by said measurer.

11. (Previously Presented) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a packager for packaging the flavored articles into a package, said packager being disposed between said flavoring apparatus and said check measurer,

said check measurer measuring the quantity of the flavored articles taking into account a quantity of the package in which said packager packages the flavored articles.

12. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 9, wherein:
the predetermined quantity of flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus is determined based on the quantity of the articles as measured by said measurer.

13. (Original) The weighing and flavoring system according to claim 9, wherein:
the predetermined quantity of flavoring supplied by said flavoring apparatus is determined based on a type of the flavoring to be supplied.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for packaging articles, said apparatus being adapted to apply an additive to the articles and comprising
a weigher for dispensing a predetermined quantity of the articles;

an additive dispenser for supplying a quantity of the additive to the dispensed predetermined quantity of the articles to produce a mixture;

a packaging machine to which the dispensed quantities of articles and additive are supplied, said packaging machine packaging the dispensed quantities of the articles and additive in a package;

a check weigher for monitoring a combined weight of the package and the mixture;

a controller for controlling said additive dispenser in response to an output of the combined weight of the package and the mixture from said check weigher in a current control cycle in order to adjust the quantity of additive supplied by said additive dispenser in a subsequent control cycle, such that the combined weight of the package and the mixture in the subsequent control cycle meets a predetermined requirement; and

a sorting unit for sorting the packages containing the mixture into a plurality of ranks for ~~an acceptable~~ non-defective product based on ~~by comparing~~ a value indicative of an excess/deficiency amount of the additive actually supplied with a plurality of threshold values calculated based on the quantity of articles as measured by said weigher.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising
a mixer disposed upstream of said packaging machine for producing the mixture by mixing in the dispensed quantities of articles and additive.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
said mixer includes an Archimedean screw.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said weigher is a combinational weigher.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said packaging machine is a vertical form fill seal packaging machine.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said dispenser includes a bulk hopper and a compressed gas transport.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging articles, comprising steps of:
dispensing a predetermined quantity of the articles;
supplying a quantity of additive to the dispensed predetermined quantity of the articles
to produce a mixture;
packaging the dispensed quantities of the articles and the additive in a package;
monitoring the combined weight of the package and the mixture;
adjusting the quantity of additive supplied in a subsequent control cycle in response to
the combined weight of the package and the mixture monitored in a current control cycle such
that the combined weight of the package and the mixture in the subsequent control cycle
meets predetermined requirements; and
sorting the packages containing the mixture into a plurality of ranks for ~~an acceptable~~
non-defective product ~~based on~~ by comparing a value indicative of an excess/deficiency
amount of the additive actually supplied with a plurality of threshold values calculated based
on the quantity of articles actually dispensed,

wherein the mixture is produced by mixing the dispensed predetermined quantity of the articles with the quantity of the additive prior to said packaging.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the articles are dispensed by a combinational weigher.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the dispensed predetermined quantity of the articles and the quantity of additive are packaged using a vertical form fill seal packaging machine.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the articles are a foodstuff.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the foodstuff are potato chips.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the additive is a flavoring.